



# Shepherd's Voice

A Weekly Publication of  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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**Rev. Joseph Hughes, Pastor**

*Date: December 11, 2016*

## Weekly Schedule

\*Recurring Events\*

### SUNDAYS

- 9:00am Holy Communion
- 10:15am Fellowship
- 10:30am Multi-Generational Sunday School
- 3:00pm Bethel Growth Group (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun.)
- 7:00pm Damascus Growth Group (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun.)
- 6:30pm Nazareth Growth Group (per group)

### Monday

- 10:00am Fellowship Text Study
- 3:15pm to 5:15pm Violin Lessons
- 6pm Car Club Meeting (4<sup>th</sup> Monday)

### Tuesday

- 11:30am Senior Potluck (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday)
- 6:30pm 4-H Garden Gnome Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Tues.)
- 3:00pm to 5:45pm Violin Lessons
- 6:00pm Deacon Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Tues.)
- 7:00pm MTL & Elder Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Tues.)

### Wednesday

- 10:00am Women on Wednesday (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.)
- 2:00pm to 6:15pm Violin Lessons

### Thursday

- 9:30am Emmaus Growth Group (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)
- 10:30am Park Place Devotions
- 2:15pm to 5:15pm Violin Lessons
- 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)

### Friday

- Office Closed
- 12:45pm to 4:15pm Violin Lessons
- 6:30pm DIGG Growth Group (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri.)

### Saturday

- Office Closed

## SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

### December 7<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ 6:00pm Soup Supper
- ❖ 6:45pm Time for Prayer
- ❖ 7:00pm Advent Service

### December 10<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ 10:00am Thrivent/SVLC meeting
- ❖ 4:00pm Santora Adoption Fundraiser

### December 13<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ 8:30am-1:00pm Circuit Pastors Meeting
- ✓ 9:30am Holy Communion

### December 14<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ 6:00pm Soup Supper
- ❖ 6:45pm Time for Prayer
- ❖ 7:00pm Advent Service

### December 21<sup>st</sup>

- ❖ 6:00pm Soup Supper
- ❖ 6:45pm Time for Prayer
- ❖ 7:00pm Advent Service

### December 24<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### December 25<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ **10:00am Christmas Day Service**
- ❖ NO MULTI-GEN SUNDAY SCHOOL





This time of year the church turns the attention of believers to the ministry of John the Baptist, the voice crying in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" The reasons why John the Baptist is important aren't always self-apparent. He's mostly known for his austere life style, for wearing clothing that even the people at St. Vinnie's probably wouldn't touch, and for having a diet that was certainly different. Safe to say, I do not think such will be the fare offered during our fellowship times at Shepherd of the Valley.

But to focus on what we might call the "weirdness" of John is to miss the point. John shows up in all four Gospel readings as the one preparing the way of Jesus. When Jesus begins his ministry of teaching preaching and healing, he begins by submitting the John's baptism "to fulfill all righteousness." Clearly John must have been important to the first apostles and the early Christian. But why? Is he more than an anachronism, a relic from Bible days with no relevance to us?

What makes John the Baptist worth serious consideration for Christians today is our context. We are trying to be the church in a time when many if not most churches in this country are in decline, including our own. One study showed 4,000 churches a year close their doors forever. This is mirrored by the experience at Shepherd of the Valley where worship attendance has dropped from over 201 to about 60 over the past dozen or so years. Another study showed that 2.7 million church members in America become inactive and quit going to church every year. Apparently a lot of people just don't see the point of being "churched" any more, and that raises many problems for congregations like Shepherd of the Valley.

Can we learn anything about being God's church today from John the Baptist? One thing might be that John had clarity about who he was and what his purpose was. He knew that he had been sent by God to "prepare the way" for the One who was to come, i.e. Jesus. This means John knew he was not the One. His purpose was to point people to the One long promised, who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. His oft heard message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," invited people into a new and vibrant relationship with God. That's what "repent" means: to set out on a new orientation in life with a new set of priorities.

Maybe part of the reason we see such losses in our churches is that many believers today lack the kind of clarity of identity and purpose that John had. It is common for church folk to play the blame game: the problem is the district president, or the pastor, or the lay leadership – clearly someone else is doing something wrong, and that is what's causing this mass desertion we are experiencing all over the church.

Doubtless pastors and leadership can always be doing things better. But at the end of his parables of the lost (Luke 15) Jesus said, "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." Not many people these days are seriously asking themselves, "What do I need to change about me to serve my Lord better?"

The ministry of John the Baptist centers on God's call to think seriously about our repentance. "Repent for what?" we might ask. Perhaps we have stopped urgently pointing people to Jesus, like John did. We have learned too well the devil's lesson to not talk about religion because it only gets people upset. Might we need a lesson on how to be contemporary John the Baptists? What if all believers clearly really saw their divine purpose as one of pointing people to Jesus as God's Christ? God's mission is not about the church, and its demographic circumstances, it is about people who need to know and live in a new relationship with God in Christ. How can we "prepare the way" for the One?

Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord!

*Pastor Joe Hughes*

Voice & text: 217-898-9063

Email: [j\\_w\\_hughes@hotmail.com](mailto:j_w_hughes@hotmail.com)





# LECTIONARY BIBLE READINGS FOR WORSHIP: 2016

## YOU CAN HELP SHAPE SUNDAY'S MESSAGE!

Everyone is welcome to participate in Monday **Fellowship Bible Studies, 10:00-11:30**. We read, learn about, and discuss the Bible readings for the coming Sunday. These important discussions help to shape pastor's message on the following Sundays, as well as provide a variety of ways you can get more out of your worship experience by sharing insights and questions raised during class. Want more information? Contact Pastor Joe (217-898-9063). Bring a friend! Everyone is welcome.

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December 11	Third Sunday in Advent	First Reading Psalm Epistle Gospel	Isaiah 35:1-10 146 James 5:7-11 Matthew 11:2-15
December 18	Fourth Sunday in Advent	First Reading Psalm Epistle Gospel	Isaiah 7:10-17 24 Romans 1:1-7 Luke 1:26-38
December 24	The Nativity of our Lord ( <i>Christmas Eve</i> )	First Reading Psalm Epistle Gospel	Isaiah 9:2-7 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
December 25	The Nativity or Our Lord ( <i>Christmas Day – 10am worship</i> )	First Reading Psalm Epistle Gospel	Isaiah 7:10-14 110:1-4 1 John 4:7-16(7-12) Matthew 1:18-25
January 1, 2017	First Sunday after Christmas	First Reading Psalm Epistle Gospel	Isaiah 52:7-10 8 Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14
January 8, 2017	The epiphany of Our Lord	First Reading Psalm Epistle Gospel	Isaiah 60:1-6 72:1-11(12-15) Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12
January 15, 2017	The Baptism of Our Lord	First Reading Psalm Epistle Gospel	Isaiah 42:1-9 29 Romans 6:1-11 Matthew 3:13-17

So many seasonal events and opportunities for a night out!

## ANNOUNCING MULTI-GEN SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPICS *December/January*

- 12/11/16** The Families of Christmas 2 – the family of Zechariah & Elizabeth.
- 12/18/16** The Families of Christmas 3 – The Holy Family – Mary, Joseph, & Jesus.
- 12/25/16** Merry Christmas – Holy Communion @ 10:00am  
NO CLASS
- 1/1/17** Happy New Year – Guest Pastor – NO CLASS.
- 1/8/17** The Lord's Supper and the Priesthood of All Believers – An Open Conversation about Lutheran Theology & Practice –  
Session 1 (These three sessions will be facilitated by elder Peter Klammer.)
- 1/15/17** Session 2
- 1/22/17** Session 3
- 1/29/17** Quarterly Voters Meeting



### Staff & Lay Leaders

Pastor	Joseph Hughes
Office Manager	Callie Santora
Musician	Lisa Boylan
President	Bill Chambers
Secretary	Gail Millimaki
Treasurer	Debi Anderson
Property Chair	OPEN
PR Coordinator	Sandy Bell
Elders	Peter Klammer Jeff Hintzman (elect) Dennis Anderson (elect)
Ministry Team Leaders	Lisa Boylan, <i>Worship &amp; Prayer</i> Jennifer Klammer, <i>Community Building &amp; Care</i> Ray Hart, <i>Missional Outreach</i> Jay McDougal, <i>Biblical Equipping</i>
Deaconesses	Donna Durbin Sandy Nash OPEN

### **IF YOU ARE PLANNING AHEAD**

please note that through November and December we have multiple people who have booked our space for parties and events on Fridays or Saturdays. If you are one who likes to have Fellowship set up the night before this may be something to consider.

### **SPECIAL FOCUS ON PRAYER**

Each Wednesday evening of Advent (**11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21**) the sanctuary will be open (and the door closed) from 6:45 to 6:55 p.m. for a special quiet time of personal prayer and meditation around the Call Process. During this time, Lisa Boylan will play Advent-themed background music. A "prayer sheet" will be available on the narthex cabinet to help guide your prayers. At 6:55 p.m., the sanctuary doors will be opened for worshippers to enter. Please consider joining in this special focus on prayer.



### ***Thrivent and SVLC members***

*are invited to attend the annual  
Thrivent-SVLC Planning Meeting  
on Saturday, December 10, from 10:00 to  
11:00 a.m.*

*in the large classroom.*

*You are encouraged to submit ideas for  
projects*

*to be funded by Thrivent Choice Dollars  
accumulated for use in 2017.*

*Please contact Katy Trautman for details.*

**THE WORD IS OUT!** The easy accessibility and convenient location of our church facility has been talked of in the community. We are having more parties, gatherings and meetings take place at all times during the week. As owners of this building it is important for us to clean up OUR events the way we would like to see outside groups clean up after their events. PLEASE be sure that all electronic equipment gets put away in the AV room. Make sure the garbage is taken out, and the dishes done and put away.

It is only fair that we are doing exactly as we ask others to do. Thank you!

### **CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

It has been a tradition that each year we collect donations to give a Christmas blessing to our Pastor and staff.

If you are able to donate to the Christmas gift this year please see Peter Klammer.

All donations need to be in to Peter  
**NO LATER THAN**

December 21<sup>st</sup>  
so they may be presented  
Christmas Eve.

Thank you in advance!





**December Birthdays:** Mike Kutsch 12/11, Rich Millimaki 12/12, Colleen Fisher 12/17, Lidia Watrud 12/19, Mary Nunery 12/22, Cynthia Dort 12/26, Ray Hart 12/26, Sharyn Heller 12/26, Ellie Hintzman 12/28

**December Anniversaries:** August & Dorothy 12/20, Tom & Priscilla 12/27, Bill & Sharyn 12/31

### Lay Ministry December 11<sup>th</sup>

**Greeter:**

John & Evelyn Stephens

**Acolyte:**

Ellie Hintzman

**Reader:**

Peter Klammer

**Sound & Tech:**

Jeff Hintzman

**Ushers:**

Fernando Henriques, Katy Trautman, Richard Hlavinka, Bruce Havranek

**Communion:**

Peter Klammer

**Refreshments:**

Donna Pompe & Marla Crane

**Musician:**

Ann Capps

### Lay Ministry December 18<sup>th</sup>

**Greeter:**

Tom & Priscilla Stratton

**Acolyte:**

Caroline Hintzman

**Reader:**

Glen Schmidt

**Sound & Tech:**

Jay McDougal

**Ushers:**

Fernando Henriques, Katy Trautman, Richard Hlavinka, Bruce Havranek

**Communion:**

Peter Klammer

**Refreshments:**

Debi Anderson & Alison Hintzman

**Musician:**

Lisa Boylan

### ADVENT Season...

Advent Midweek Soup Suppers and Services continue on Wednesday evenings in Advent beginning November 30 and continuing December 7, 14, and 21. Soup supper at 6:00 PM Evening Prayer for Advent at 7:00 PM. Christmas Eve Candle light communion is Saturday, December 24, 7:00 PM. Christmas Day Holy Communion is Sunday, December 25, **10:00 AM** (note one hour later than usual on Sundays).



# *You are cordially invited*

## **Adoption Fundraiser!**

This is an excellent opportunity to get some Christmas Shopping done for those ladies in your life. Please come to Shepherd of the Valley on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm for a Hot Chocolate themed Trunk Show where you can help raise, not only funds for the Santora's adoption but to help create a sustainable source of income for third world and depressed communities spanning the globe -- keeping families together.

Please contact Callie (541-220-8425) if you would like to RSVP. If you are unable to make it to the trunk show Callie has information on how to shop online! See you there!

✝ *Shepherd of the Valley* ✝  
*is hosting*  
*the circuit pastors meeting*  
*and you are invited*  
*to join for Holy Communion*  
*on Tuesday,*  
✝ *December 13, 9:30-10:15 AM* ✝

## **ORGAN CONCERTS IN DECEMBER**

by our own  
Lisa Boylan & Company.

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** @ 4:00pm w/ Erik McKirdy  
Albany First United Methodist Church  
Organ Duets and Solo Pieces.



**The Love INC Christmas Store** is a unique opportunity for individuals to volunteer in their community and earn vouchers. They can then use these vouchers to provide gifts for their loved ones and family members. This year the event will be hosted by the Corvallis Foursquare Church, on December 12<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Donated gifts can be dropped off at the Love INC office Monday-Thursday 9:30 AM-3:30 PM until December 8th or can be dropped off at Corvallis Foursquare Church on December 11th between 1:00 PM-4:30 PM.*

# CHECK IT OUT!!

## Bulletin Board on East side of the office hallway.

- ❖ Update on our seminary student
- ❖ Update from the Olivers

## Entry way Bulletin Board

- Community shows
- Family activities
- Love INC Christmas Store

## LUTHERFEST 2017, TICKET SALES OPEN DECEMBER 1

Lutherfest 2017, the fifth annual Luther House Beer and Cheese pairing benefit, is just around the corner – Sunday, February 26, from 2:00-4:30 pm at the Boulder Falls Event Center, Lebanon, Oregon.

Again this year guests will be treated to six seated-and-served pairings of Oregon artisan cheeses and craft beers accompanied by fresh Pacific Northwest appetizers. You'll be able to pose for your free memory photo, chat with vendors, mingle with friends, learn about craft brewing and artisan cheese-making in Oregon, hear testimonials from active Luther House students, possibly win a gift basket, and visit vendor tables after the party (bring your charge card or debit card with you). A new feature this year is the Lutherfest Traveling Trophy that will be awarded to the congregation with the most guests present.

Individual tickets remain a great value at \$50. Buy a Table of 8 for \$350 (a savings of \$50). Because of our generous sponsors – Grace Lutheran Foundation (Corvallis), St. Mark Lutheran Endowment (Salem), Faith Lutheran Endowment (Albany), Atonement Lutheran Endowment (Newport), and Ron and Virginia Mohr of Thrivent Financial – every dollar in ticket sales will directly support student programming and outreach in 2017. **Ticket sales open December 1. Only 220 tickets are available. Online purchases only at [lutherfest.luther-house.org](http://lutherfest.luther-house.org).**

Here's your opportunity to get that holiday gift for the person who's hard to please. Or, invite seven friends and enjoy an afternoon together. Or, treat yourself to a delicious afternoon sampling local fare. Or, just support Luther House because you care about our ministry on campus. Whatever your reason, we're grateful for your support and look forward to seeing you at the party.

Questions? Call [541-753-5213](tel:541-753-5213) or email [info@luther-house.org](mailto:info@luther-house.org).

